

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

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SUBJECT Communist Party Purge

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1. [redacted] a serious plot [redacted] was discovered by the Hungarian secret police among army and police services at the end of March. The principal center of the plot appears to have been Pécs, where military academy personnel were allegedly involved in the anti-Cominform conspiracy. The initiative for the plot sprang from anti-Moscow Communist elements. Early in April there were arrests of several high officers of the police and army in Pécs, Győr, and Szombathely. Among those arrested was General János Rátulovszky. The Hungarian Communist Party authorities immediately ordered a purge to eliminate anti-Moscow elements and other compromised members from the Party.

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2. [redacted] Sándor Zold, Minister of the Interior [redacted] was dismissed for not having been sufficiently vigilant to notify the Russian authorities of the extent of the plot. Some newspaper reports contend that Zold committed suicide. The elimination of Zold is to be regarded as a personal victory for Gabor Peter. Peter is the Communist chief of the secret police, Moscow-trained and, since 1945, in continuous disagreement with Zold who came up from the ranks of the Party's underground.

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